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INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly and reconfirmed by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fourth session, the Commission convened a meeting of its Ad Hoc Inter-Sessional Working Group in New York from 24 February to 7 March 1997 to assist the Commission at its fifth session in the preparations for the nineteenth special session of the Assembly, to be held in June 1997 in accordance with Assembly resolutions 50/113 and 51/181 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.[1]

2. Section I of the present report, entitled "Proposed outcome of the special session" is a compilation of the main proposals made and concerns expressed by participants at the meeting regarding the key issues that should be addressed in preparation for the special session. The proposed outcome was prepared by the Co-Chairmen of the Working Group on the basis of detailed discussions at the meeting; it is not a negotiated text.

3. It was agreed that the proposed outcome would be further studied by all delegations and groups, including in their capitals, during the period between the conclusion of the Working Group meeting and the opening of the fifth session of the Commission and would serve as the starting point for further discussion at the high-level segment of the Commission.

I. PROPOSED OUTCOME OF THE SPECIAL SESSION

A. Statement of commitment

1. This could take the form of either a preamble to a consolidated text or a self-standing concise declaration, with other parts attached as annexes or otherwise referred to. The statement, inter alia, should:

(a) Be politically attractive and forward looking, and should provide a clear focus;

(b) Reaffirm the final outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) as the foundation and long-term policy framework for sustainable development;

(c) Highlight the main achievements reached since UNCED at the international, national and institutional levels, and the significant contributions made by the major groups;

(d) Address the vicious circle of poverty, lack of capacity and lack of resources in developing countries, and emphasize the importance of global partnership and international cooperation for supporting efforts to achieve sustainable development;

(e) Reiterate the need for changing consumption and production patterns;

(f) Place strong emphasis on implementation and commitments.

B. Assessment of progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

2. The five years that have elapsed since UNCED have been characterized by the accelerated globalization of interactions among countries in the areas of world trade, foreign direct investment and capital markets. Some developing countries have been able to take advantage of that trend, attracting large inflows of external private capital and experiencing significant export-led growth and acceleration of growth in per capita gross domestic product (GDP). Many other countries, however, have not been able to do so; as a result, they have generally experienced stagnating or falling per capita GDP through 1995. While continuing their efforts to achieve sustainable development and to attract new investments, such countries remain heavily dependent on a declining volume of official development assistance (ODA) for the capacity-building and infrastructure development required to provide basic needs and more effective participation in the globalizing world economy.

3. Although economic growth - reinforced by globalization - has allowed some countries to reduce the proportion of people in poverty, marginalization has increased for others; too many countries have seen economic conditions worsen, and the total number of people in the world living in poverty has increased. Income inequality has increased both among and within countries, unemployment has worsened in many countries, and the gap between the least developed

countries and other countries has grown rapidly in recent years. On a more positive note, population growth rates have been declining globally, largely as a result of expanded basic education and health care. That trend is expected to lead to a stable world population in the middle of the twenty-first century. There has also been progress in social services, with expanding access to education, declining infant mortality and increasing life expectancy in most countries. However, many people, particularly in the least developed countries, still do not have access to basic social services or to clean water and sanitation. Reducing current inequities in the distribution of wealth and access to resources, both within and among countries, is among the most serious challenges facing humankind.

4. Five years after UNCED, the state of global environment has continued to deteriorate, as noted in the Global Environment Outlook of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),[2] and significant environmental problems remain deeply embedded in the socio-economic fabric of nations in all regions. Some progress has been made in terms of institutional development, international consensus-building, public participation and private-sector actions, and as a result a number of countries have succeeded in curbing pollution and slowing the rate of resource degradation. Overall, however, trends are worsening. Emissions of many pollutants, in particular toxic substances, greenhouse gases and waste volumes, are continuing to increase in the industrialized countries, and their wasteful production and consumption patterns remain fundamentally unchanged. Many countries undergoing rapid economic growth and urbanization are also experiencing increasing levels of air and water pollution, with accumulating impacts on human health. Acid rain and transboundary air pollution, once considered a problem only in the industrialized world, are increasingly becoming a problem in many developing regions. In many poorer regions of the world, persistent poverty is contributing to accelerated degradation of productive natural resources and desertification has spread. Inadequate and unsafe water supplies are affecting an increasing number of people worldwide, aggravating problems of ill health and food insecurity among the poor. Conditions in natural habitats and fragile ecosystems are still deteriorating in all regions of the world, resulting in diminishing biological diversity. At the global level, renewable resources, in particular freshwater, forests, topsoil and marine fish stocks, continue to be used at rates beyond their natural rates of regeneration, a situation which is clearly unsustainable.

5. Trends in consumption and production patterns continue to deplete non-renewable resources, despite some improvement in material and energy efficiency. As a result, increasing levels of pollution threaten to exceed the capacity of the global environment to absorb them, increasing the potential obstacles to economic and social development in developing countries.

6. Since UNCED, extensive efforts have been made by Governments to integrate environment and development concerns into decision-making by elaborating new policies and strategies for sustainable development or by adapting existing policies and plans. As many as 150 countries have established national-level commissions or coordinating mechanisms designed to develop an integrated approach to sustainable development.

7. The major groups have demonstrated what can be achieved by taking committed action, sharing resources and building consensus, reflecting grass-roots concern and involvement. The efforts of local authorities are making Agenda 21 a reality at the local level through the implementation of local Agenda 21 programmes. Educational institutions and the media have increased public awareness and discussion of the relations between environment and development in all countries. Hundreds of small and large businesses have made "green business" a new operating mode. Workers and trade unions have established partnerships with employers and communities to encourage sustainable development in the workplace. Indigenous peoples have played an increasing role in addressing issues affecting their interests. Young people and women around the world have played a prominent role in galvanizing communities to recognize their responsibilities to future generations.

8. Among the achievements that have been made since UNCED are the entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I), the Convention on Biological Diversity[3] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II); the conclusion of an agreement on straddling and migratory fish stocks (see A/50/550, p. 10); the adoption of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[4] and the elaboration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (A/51/166, annex II). Implementation of those important commitments at the global level and of others adopted before UNCED, however, still remains to be carried out, and in many cases further strengthening of their provisions is required. The establishment, funding and replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was a major achievement, but funding is still not sufficient to fully meet its objectives.

9. Progress has been made in incorporating the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[5] including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, in a variety of international and national legal instruments.

10. A number of recent United Nations conferences have advanced international commitment to addressing the social and economic aspects of sustainable development, such as the eradication of poverty, social integration, population and gender issues, education, trade, growth and development, human settlements and food security, thus contributing to the achievement of the long-term goals and objectives of sustainability.

11. The Commission on Sustainable Development, which was established to review progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21, forward global dialogue and foster partnerships for sustainable development, has catalysed new action and commitments among a wide variety of partners within and outside the United Nations system. Its Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the world forest agenda.

12. However, much remains to be done to activate the means of implementation set out in Agenda 21, in particular in the areas of finance and technology transfer.

13. Most developed countries have still not reached the United Nations target, reaffirmed at UNCED, of committing 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) to official development assistance (ODA), nor the agreed United Nations target of committing 0.15 per cent of GNP as ODA to the least developed countries. On average, ODA as a percentage of GNP has declined in the post-UNCED period from 0.34 per cent in 1992 to 0.27 per cent in 1995.

14. In many developing countries, the debt situation remains a major constraint to sustainable development. While the debt situation of many middle-income countries has improved, enabling them to re-enter international capital markets, many heavily indebted poor countries continue to face unsustainable external debt burdens. The recent World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF) Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative could help to address that issue with the cooperation of creditor countries. Further efforts by the international community will also be necessary to reduce debt as an impediment to sustainable development.

15. Similarly, technology transfer and technology-related investment from public and private sources in developed countries directed to developing countries has not reached the levels anticipated in Agenda 21. Although increased private flows have led to investments in industry and technology in some developing countries and economies in transition, many other developing countries have been left behind, slowing the process of technological change in those countries and limiting their ability to meet their commitments under Agenda 21 and other international agreements. The commitment made by developed countries to foster the transfer of technology has not been fulfilled as agreed in Agenda 21.

C. Implementation in areas requiring urgent action

16. Agenda 21 and the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development established a comprehensive global approach to the achievement of sustainable development, recognizing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the importance of international cooperation. That approach is as relevant and as urgently needed as ever. It is clear from the assessment above that although progress has been made in some areas, a major new effort will be required to achieve the goals established at UNCED. The proposals set out below outline strategies for accelerating progress towards sustainable development. Sections 1, 2 and 3 are equally important, and they must be considered and implemented in a balanced and integrated way.

1. Integration of economic, social and environmental objectives

17. Economic growth is an essential precondition of sustainable development, especially in developing countries. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without greater integration at the policy-making and operational levels.

Economic sectors, such as industry, agriculture, energy, transport and tourism, must take responsibility for the impacts of their activities on human well-being and the physical environment. As demonstrated above, the need for integration is particularly urgent in the areas of energy and transport because of the adverse effects that developments in those sectors can have on human health and ecosystems; in the areas of agriculture and water use, where inadequate land-use planning, poor water management and inappropriate technology can result in the degradation of natural resources and human impoverishment; and in the area of management of marine resources, where competitive overexploitation can damage the resource base, food supplies and the livelihood of fishing communities, as well as the environment. Sustainable development strategies are important mechanisms for enhancing and linking national capacity so as to integrate priorities in social, economic and environmental policies. In the context of good governance, properly constructed strategies can enhance prospects for economic growth and employment and at the same time protect the environment. All sectors of society should be involved in their development and implementation, as follows:

(a) By the year 2002, national strategies for sustainable development should be adopted in all countries, with assistance provided, where needed, through international cooperation, taking into account the special needs of least developed countries. Countries which already have national strategies should continue their efforts to enhance and effectively implement them. Assessment of progress achieved and exchange of experience among Governments should be promoted. Local Agenda 21 programmes should also be actively encouraged;

(b) A broad package of policy instruments, including regulation, economic instruments, information, and voluntary partnerships between Governments and non-governmental actors, will be necessary to ensure that integrated approaches are effective and cost-efficient;

(c) Transparent and participatory processes will also be required to ensure the complementarity of economic, environmental and social objectives. In addition to the major groups identified in Agenda 21, other social actors and groups, such as the elderly, the media, educators, the financial community and parliaments, should be acknowledged and included in the decision-making process;

(d) The full participation of women in political, economic, cultural and other activities is essential, both as a central objective of sustainable development and to ensure that the skills and experience of women are fully used in decision-making at all levels.

Eradicating poverty

18. The eradication of poverty is one of the fundamental goals of the international community and the entire United Nations system. In the long term, the eradication of poverty will depend on the full integration of people living in poverty into economic, social and political life. Policies to combat poverty, in particular policies for providing basic social services and food security, promote such integration, and broader socio-economic development is effective as well since enhancing the productive capacity of poor people

increases both their well-being and that of their communities and societies, and facilitates their participation in resource conservation and environmental protection. Full implementation of the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[6] is essential, with the participation of non-governmental organizations, women's groups and community organizations. Priority actions include:

(a) Improving access to sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities and productive resources, including land, water, credit, technical and administrative training, and appropriate technology, with particular efforts to reach the rural poor and the urban informal sector;

(b) Providing universal access to basic social services, including basic education, health care, nutrition, clean water and sanitation;

(c) Progressive development, in accordance with the financial and administrative capacities of each society, of social protection systems to support those who cannot support themselves, either temporarily or permanently;

(d) Addressing the disproportionate impact of poverty on women, in particular by removing legislative, policy, administrative and customary barriers to women's equal access to productive resources and services, including access to and control over land and other forms of property, credit, inheritance, education, information, health care and technology. Full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1, resolution 1, annex II) is essential.

Changing consumption and production patterns

19. Unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, particularly in the industrialized countries, are identified in Agenda 21 as the major cause of continued deterioration of the global environment. Similar patterns are emerging in the higher income groups in some developing countries. Policy-making should take place at both the international and national levels, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, applying the polluter pays principle, encouraging producer responsibility and adopting a sectoral approach, where relevant. The promotion of eco-efficiency, cost internalization and product policies are key strategies for making consumption and production patterns more sustainable. Actions in that area should focus on:

(a) Promoting measures to internalize environmental costs and benefits in the price of goods and services, particularly with a view to encouraging the use of environmentally preferable products and commodities, and moving towards pricing natural resources in a way that fully reflects economic scarcity;

(b) Developing core indicators to monitor critical trends in consumption and production patterns;

(c) Identification of best practices through evaluations of policy measures, especially in developed countries, with respect to their environmental

effectiveness, efficiency and implications for social equity, and dissemination of the results of such evaluations;

(d) Taking account of the linkages between urbanization, the environmental and developmental effects of consumption and production patterns in cities, thus promoting more sustainable patterns of urbanization;

(e) Adopting international and national targets or action programmes for energy and material efficiency, with timetables for their implementation, thereby stimulating the continued implementation of eco-efficiency measures in both the private and public sectors. In that context, establishing goals to improve energy and material efficiency, such as those advocated in "factor 10"[7] or similar policy approaches, deserves attention;

(f) Encouraging Governments to take the lead in changing consumption patterns by improving their own environmental performance with timetabled, action-oriented policies on procurement, the management of public facilities and the further integration of environmental concerns into national policy-making;

(g) Harnessing the role of media, advertising and marketing in shaping consumption patterns, and to that end encouraging the use of eco-labelling;

(h) In promoting measures favouring eco-efficiency, developed countries should pay special attention to the needs of developing countries, in particular encouraging positive impact, and avoiding negative impacts on export opportunities and market access for those countries;

(i) Encouraging the creation of educational programmes to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Making trade, environment and sustainable development mutually supportive

20. In order to accelerate economic growth and poverty eradication there is a need to establish macroeconomic conditions in both developed and developing countries that favour the development of instruments and structures enabling all countries to benefit from globalization. Cooperation and other support for capacity-building in trade, environment and development should be strengthened through renewed system-wide efforts in the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the Bretton Woods institutions. There should be a balanced and integrated approach to trade and sustainable development, based on a combination of trade liberalization, economic development and environmental protection. To that end, trade liberalization should be accompanied by environmental and resource management policies in order to realize its full potential contribution to improved environmental protection and the promotion of sustainable development through more efficient allocation and use of resources. The multilateral trading system should have the capacity to further integrate environmental considerations and enhance its contribution to sustainable development, without undermining its open, equitable and non-discriminatory character. International cooperation is needed and unilateralism should be avoided. The following actions are required:

(a) Timely and full implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations,[8] and full use of the Comprehensive and Integrated WTO Plan of Action for the Least Developed Countries;[9]

(b) There is a continuing need to promote an open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as the rapid accession of developing countries, while mitigating possible adverse economic effects on certain developing countries that might arise from the implementation of certain aspects of the Uruguay Round agreements;

(c) Further work is needed to ensure that the implementation of environmental measures does not result in disguised or unnecessary restrictions on trade, particularly any adverse effects on existing market access opportunities of developing countries. There is also a need to strive for complementarity between globalization promoted by trade liberalization and the environmental, social and sustainable development goals of UNCED and other recent United Nations conferences;

(d) Further analysis of environmental effects of international transport of goods is warranted;

(e) National Governments and private bodies should explore such concepts as mutual recognition and equivalency in the context of eco-labelling, taking into account differing environmental and developmental conditions across countries;

(f) Positive measures, including enhanced market access for products of export interest to developing countries, should be promoted. The generalized system of preferences could be used to provide incentives for sustainable production;

(g) Further action should also focus on such issues as: (i) the role of positive measures in multilateral environmental agreements; (ii) the special conditions and needs of small and medium-sized enterprises in the trade and environment interface; (iii) trade and environment issues at the regional level, including in the context of regional economic and trade agreements; and (iv) environment and sustainable development issues in the context of domestic and foreign direct investment, including in the context of the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures.[10]

Population

21. The current decline in population growth rates must be further promoted through national and international policies that promote economic development, poverty reduction, the further expansion of basic education, with equal access for girls and women, and health care, including family and maternal health care. Priority actions required to reduce pressures from population growth and meet the needs of growing urban and rural populations include the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[11] with international assistance for implementation in developing countries.

Health

22. The goals of sustainable development cannot be achieved when a high proportion of the population is afflicted with debilitating illnesses. An overriding goal for the future is to implement the Health for All programme[12] and to enable all people, particularly the world's poor, to achieve a higher level of health and well-being, and to improve their economic productivity and social potential. Protecting children from environmental health threats is particularly urgent since children are more susceptible than adults to those threats. Top priority should be attached to efforts on the part of countries and international organizations to eradicate the major infectious diseases, particularly malaria, which is on the increase, and to the improvement and expansion of basic health and sanitation services and the provision of safe drinking water. Strategies for local and indoor air pollution should be developed, bearing in mind their serious impacts on human health. A clear linkage between health and environment needs to be established. Health issues should be fully integrated into national and subnational sustainable development plans, and should be incorporated into project and programme development as a component of environmental impact assessments.

Sustainable human settlements

23. Approximately half the world's population already lives in urban settlements, and by early in the next century the majority - more than 5 billion people - will be urban residents. Urban problems are concerns common to both developed and developing countries, although urbanization is occurring most rapidly in developing countries, leading to increased social and environmental stresses. Urgent action is needed to implement fully the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (see A/CONF.165/14, chap. I, resolution 1) and in Agenda 21. Technology transfer, capacity-building and private-public partnerships to improve the provision and management of urban infrastructure and social services should be accelerated to achieve more sustainable cities.

2. Sectors and issues

24. The present section identifies a number of specific areas that are of widespread concern since failure to reverse current trends in those areas, notably in resource degradation, will have potentially disastrous effects on social and economic development, particularly in developing countries.

Freshwater

25. Water resources are essential for satisfying basic human needs, health and food production, and the preservation of ecosystems, as well as for economic and social development in general. There is growing concern at the increasing stress on water supplies caused by unsustainable use patterns, affecting both water quality and quantity, and the widespread lack of access to safe water supply and suitable sanitation in many developing countries. This calls for the highest priority to be given to the serious freshwater problems facing many regions, especially in the developing world. There is an urgent need to:

(a) Assign high priority, in accordance with specific national needs and conditions, to the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for integrated watershed management, including issues related to pollution and waste, the interrelationship between water and mountains, forests, upstream and downstream users, biodiversity and the preservation of aquatic ecosystems, and land degradation and desertification;

(b) Strengthen regional and international cooperation for technological transfer and the financing of integrated water resources programmes and projects, in particular those designed to increase access to safe water supply and sanitation;

(c) Manage water resource development and use in ways that provide for the participation of local communities and women in particular;

(d) Provide an enabling environment that encourages investments from public and private sources to improve water supply and sanitation services, especially in fast-growing urban areas, as well as in poor rural communities;

(e) Recognize water as an economic good, taking into account the satisfaction of basic human needs, global food security and poverty alleviation. Gradual implementation of pricing policies that are geared towards cost recovery and an equitable and efficient allocation of water will be necessary to manage the sustainable development of scarce water resources and generate financial resources for investment in new water supply and treatment facilities;

(f) Strengthen the capability of Governments and international institutions to manage information, including scientific, social and environmental data, in order to facilitate the integrated management of water resources, and foster regional and international cooperation for information dissemination and exchange;

(g) Strengthen international cooperation for the integrated development of water resources in developing countries through such initiatives as the Global Water Partnership;

(h) Make progress on multilateral agreements among riparian countries for the harmonious development of international watercourses;

(i) Foster an intergovernmental dialogue, under the aegis of the Commission, aimed at building a consensus on issues related to the sustainable management and use of water resources at the national, regional and international levels.

Oceans

26. Some progress has been achieved on various aspects of the protection of oceans. To address the need for improving global decision-making in the marine environment, periodic intergovernmental reviews will be undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development of all aspects of the marine environment and its related issues, for which the overall legal framework is provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[13] as agreed by the Commission at

its fourth session in its decision 4/15. In that context, there is an urgent need for:

(a) An integrated, comprehensive approach to the implementation and monitoring of existing legal instruments and mechanisms, based on more effective coordination of policies and actions at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, and on international cooperation;

(b) Urgent implementation, at the international, regional and national levels, of relevant agreements, instruments and decisions dealing with oceans and seas.[14] Despite the large number of such agreements, major problems persist in some areas of ocean management. The continuing decline of many marine fish stocks and rising coastal pollution levels indicate the need for concerted action;

(c) Governments to consider the establishment of measurable objectives, including the phasing-out of subsidies, where appropriate, to eliminate or reduce excess fishing fleet capacity at the global, regional and national levels;

(d) In the context of the International Year of the Ocean, 1998, which was proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/131, Governments should take action, individually and through their participation in the Commission, UNEP and its Regional Seas Programme, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to improve the quality and quantity of scientific data related to oceans, and to enhance public awareness of oceans as a finite economic and ecological asset that must be preserved and protected. In particular, the Global Ocean Observing System should be fully implemented, and the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection should be supported. Greater international cooperation is required to assist developing countries, in particular small island developing States, to operationalize data networks and clearing houses for information-sharing on oceans.

Forests

27. The report of the Commission's Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its fourth and final session (E/CN.17/1997/12) includes a number of options that will be considered by the Commission at its fifth session.

Energy

28. Energy plays a key role in achieving the economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development, and access to reliable and cost-effective supplies of energy is essential. However, the current patterns of production, distribution and use of energy are not consistent with the pursuit of sustainable development. Therefore, there is an urgent need for:

(a) International cooperation for the provision of adequate energy services to unserved populations, using modern renewable energy sources where that is the best option;

(b) All countries to develop comprehensive energy policies that include the economic, social and environmental aspects of production, distribution and use, and to promote more sustainable patterns of energy production and consumption;

(c) Countries to systematically increase the use of modern renewable energy sources and cleaner fossil fuel technologies in order to improve efficiency in energy production, distribution and use;

(d) Concerted efforts to increase investment and research and development in renewable energy technologies at the international and national levels on the part of the energy sector and institutions and Governments;

(e) Governments and the private sector to move towards energy pricing that reflects full economic and environmental costs, as well as social benefits, including consideration of the elimination of environmentally damaging subsidies for energy production and consumption, especially for fossil and nuclear energy, within 10 years, while taking into account specific conditions of countries;

(f) Development of a common strategy as a reference framework for better coordination of energy-related activities within the United Nations system.

Transport

29. Over the next 20 years, transportation is expected to be the major driving force behind growing world demand for energy, particularly oil. The transport sector is the largest end-user of energy in developed countries and the fastest growing one in most developing countries. Current levels and patterns of fossil energy use for transport have particularly damaging impacts on the global atmosphere, as well as on local air quality and human health. There is an urgent need for:

(a) Promotion of integrated transport policies that consider alternative approaches to meeting commercial and private mobility needs and improve performance in the transport sector, at the national, regional and global levels, with international cooperation to support the development of more sustainable patterns of transport;

(b) Integration of land use and urban, peri-urban and rural transport planning, taking into account the need to preserve ecosystems;

(c) Use of a broad spectrum of policy instruments to improve energy efficiency and efficiency standards in transportation and related sectors;

(d) Promotion of guidelines for environmentally friendly transport, targets for reducing vehicle emissions of carbon monoxide, particulate matter and volatile organic compounds, and the phasing-out of lead additives in motor gasoline within the next 10 years;

(e) Partnerships at the national level, involving Governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, for strengthening transport infrastructures and developing innovative mass transport schemes.

Atmosphere

30. So far, very little progress has been made in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. There is a need to reinforce the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with additional agreements to limit GHG emissions. It is most important that the third meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, to be held at Kyoto, Japan, later in 1997, adopt a legally binding protocol or other legal instrument that fully encompasses the remit of the Berlin Mandate.[15] The Conference of Parties should call upon the industrialized world to endorse a substantial reduction target for GHGs from 1990 levels by the year 2005, and to agree on coordinated measures to ensure the target's implementation.

31. The recent successful conclusion of the replenishment negotiations of the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund is welcomed. Future replenishments should also be adequate to ensure timely implementation of the Montreal Protocol.[16] There is also a need to implement effective measures against the illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances. Rising levels of transboundary air pollution should be countered through the further development of regional agreements and conventions to reduce emission levels.

Chemicals and wastes

32. Substantial progress has been made with the implementation of the Basel[17] and Bamako Conventions[18] and the establishment of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) and the Inter-organizational Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). Further action at the international level includes recent decisions of the UNEP Governing Council and of IFCS at its second session to prepare for the expeditious conclusion of conventions on prior informed consent and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), bearing in mind the need for a comprehensive approach to the control of such pollutants, including necessary international mechanisms to assist developing countries and economies in transition in implementing such conventions. There is also a need for IFCS, IOMC and relevant United Nations and national agencies to develop criteria for identifying any chemicals in addition to the 12 specified POPs that could be included in a POPs convention. It is necessary to conclude a protocol on liability and compensation under the Basel Convention. Storage, transportation, transboundary movements and disposal of radio-active wastes must be guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Increased regional cooperation is required to improve the management of radioactive wastes; storage of radioactive wastes in countries or territories without internationally accepted safe storage facilities should be prevented.

Land and sustainable agriculture

33. Land loss and degradation threatens the livelihood of millions of people and future food security, with implications for water resources and the

conservation of biodiversity. There is an urgent need to define ways to combat or reverse the worldwide acceleration of soil degradation, and to integrate land and watershed management, taking into account the needs of populations living in mountain ecosystems. The international community has recognized the need for an integrated approach to land-use management that involves all stakeholders, at local as well as national levels, including women, small-scale food producers, indigenous peoples and community-level non-governmental organizations. The eradication of poverty remains essential to improving food security and providing adequate nutrition for the more than 800 million undernourished people in the world, located mainly in developing countries. Comprehensive rural policies are required to improve access to land, combat poverty, create employment and reduce rural emigration. To meet those objectives, Governments should attach high priority to implementing the commitments of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action, adopted at the World Food Summit (Rome, 13-17 November 1996), especially the call for a minimum target of halving the number of undernourished people in the world by the year 2015.

Desertification and drought

34. Governments are urged to ratify, accede to and implement as soon as possible the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, which entered into force on 26 December 1996, and to support the first meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, which will be held in Rome in September 1997. The international community should also support the global mechanism so as to ensure adequate financial resources for advancing the implementation of the Convention and its annexes.

Biodiversity

35. Identifying values of biodiversity and integrating those values into national decision-making poses a challenge for economists and decision makers. It is of critical importance that Governments and the international community fully implement the commitments of the Convention on Biodiversity. Special attention should be given to the Leipzig Declaration on Plant Genetic Resources (see FAO/CL.111/17) and its plan of action, which focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity. More attention must be given to the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including access to genetic resources and transfer of technologies. Governments should also respect, preserve and maintain knowledge of innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, and should encourage equitable sharing of the benefits arising from indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge so that they are properly rewarded. A biosafety protocol under the Convention on Biological Diversity should be rapidly concluded. In the meantime, countries should adhere to and implement the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology (UNEP(092.1)/UN3).

Sustainable tourism

36. The tourism sector is now the world's largest industry and the fastest growing economic sector. Tourism is a major employer and contributor to national and local economies. Tourism, like other sectors, uses resources and generates wastes, and creates environmental, cultural and social costs and benefits in the process. One particular concern is the degradation of biodiversity and fragile eco-systems, such as coral reefs, mountains, coastal areas and wetlands. To achieve sustainable tourism, it is essential to strengthen integrated policy development, nationally and internationally, using physical planning, impact assessment, and economic, social, and regulatory instruments. Policy development and implementation should take place in cooperation with all stakeholders, especially the private sector and local communities, including indigenous peoples. The Commission should develop an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism, to be defined in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNEP and other relevant organizations, and in support of related work in the context of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The sustainable development of tourism is of particular importance for small island developing States. International cooperation is needed to facilitate tourism development in small island developing States, including the development and marketing of eco-tourism, bearing in mind the importance of the conservation policies required to secure long-term benefits from development in this sector in the context of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

Small island developing States

37. The international community reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The Commission on Sustainable Development carried out a mid-term review of selected programme areas of the Programme of Action at its fourth session, in 1996; a full review is scheduled for 1999. (The Commission should make adequate provision at its fifth session for the full review, in accordance with the provisions of the Programme of Action.)

38. Considerable efforts are being made at the national and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action. Those efforts need to be supplemented by effective financial support from the international community. External assistance for the building of requisite infrastructure and national capacity-building, including human and institutional capacity, and for facilitating access to information on sustainable development practices and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies is crucial for small island developing States to effectively attain the goals of the Programme of Action. To assist national capacity-building, the small island developing States information network and small island developing States technical assistance programme should be operationalized as soon as possible, with the support of existing regional and subregional institutions.

Natural disasters

39. Natural disasters have disproportionate consequences for developing countries, in particular small island developing States. Programmes for sustainable development should give higher priority to implementation of the commitments made at the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Yokohama, Japan, 23-27 May 1994) (see A/CONF.172/9 and Add.1). There is a particular need for the promotion and facilitation of the transfer of early-warning technologies to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are prone to natural disasters.

3. Means of implementation

Financial resources and mechanisms

40. Financial resources and mechanisms play a key role in the implementation of Agenda 21. Urgent and renewed efforts are essential to ensure that all sources of funding - international and domestic as well as private and public - contribute to sustainable development.

41. The commitments made at UNCED to provide new and additional resources to developing countries remain a key element for supporting their efforts to achieve sustainable development. In view of the need to ensure effective implementation of Agenda 21, there is an urgent need to fulfil all financial commitments of Agenda 21, especially those contained in chapter 33. Developed countries should therefore reaffirm their commitments, including the achievement of the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, as soon as possible, and in particular should reverse the recent downward trend in the ratio of ODA to GNP. It is essential to consider strategies for restoring donor support to aid programmes and revitalizing the commitments that donors made at UNCED. Some countries already meet or exceed the 0.7 per cent agreed target. As a minimum, donor countries with declining ODA should return to 1992 shares of GNP within five years. Other countries in a position to do so should also be encouraged to provide ODA support.

42. Official financial flows to developing countries remain an essential element of the partnership embodied in Agenda 21. ODA plays a significant role in capacity-building, infrastructure, combating poverty and environmental protection in developing countries, and a crucial role in the least developed countries.

43. Official financial flows can also play an important catalytic role in supporting policy reforms, promoting institutional development and leveraging private investment, and cannot be replaced by private flows.

44. Private foreign capital is a major engine of economic growth in a large number of developing countries. Enhancing its contribution to sustainable development depends mainly on the support of sound and predictable domestic policies, including policies that internalize environmental costs. Therefore, at both the national and international levels, further work should be undertaken on the design of appropriate policies for attracting private foreign capital, in

particular foreign direct investment (FDI), reducing its volatility, and enhancing its contribution to sustainable development, for example by promoting innovative schemes, such as co-financing and "green" credit lines and investment funds.

45. GEF needs further expansion and development. In the first instance, the satisfactory replenishment of GEF resources, for example through a doubling, deserves high priority; further consideration could then be given to the expansion of the scope and coverage of GEF beyond its existing mandate.

46. Further studies should be undertaken on foreign private flows to developing countries, including studies of an appropriate policy environment for attracting FDI and a means for host countries to maximize the positive impacts of FDI on sustainable development by strengthening social policies and environmental policies and regulations.

47. To resolve the remaining debt problems of the highly indebted poorest countries, creditor and debtor countries and international financial institutions should continue their efforts to find effective, comprehensive, durable and development-oriented solutions, including such measures as debt reduction, debt swaps, debt cancellation, and increased grants and concessional flows. The joint World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF) Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative is a step in the right direction, and effective and flexible implementation of the Initiative promises to reduce debt as an impediment to sustainable development.

48. Since financing for Agenda 21 in all countries will come mainly from their own public and private sectors, policies aimed at mobilizing domestic financial resources are crucial. Apart from the importance of the support provided by international cooperation, sustainable development must rely on domestic efforts. Policies for promoting domestic resources mobilization should include macroeconomic and structural reforms, public expenditure reforms, the promotion of environmental taxes and charges, a review of existing subsidy policies, and financial sector development to promote personal saving and access to credit, taking into account the characteristics and capabilities of individual countries. The expanded use of environmental taxes and user charges is particularly attractive because such mechanisms generate win-win possibilities by shifting consumer and producer behaviour in more sustainable directions, at the same time as generating financial resources that can be used for sustainable development or reducing taxes elsewhere.

49. There is a need for making existing subsidies more transparent in order to increase awareness of their actual economic, social and environmental impact and to reform them. Further national and international research in that area should be promoted in order to assist Governments in identifying and reducing subsidies that have trade-distorting and environmentally damaging impacts. In general, subsidy reductions should take full account of the specific conditions of individual countries, and should consider potentially regressive impacts. In addition, it would be desirable to use international cooperation and coordination to promote a concerted national reduction of subsidies where these have important implications for competitiveness.

50. In order to reduce the barriers to an expanded use of economic instruments, Governments and international organizations should collect and share information on the use of economic instruments, and should introduce pilot schemes. When introducing economic instruments that raise the cost of economic activities for households and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), Governments should consider gradual phase-ins, public education programmes and targeted technical assistance as strategies for reducing distributional impacts.

51. A number of innovative financial mechanisms are currently under discussion in international and national forums. In view of the widespread interest in them, appropriate organizations, including the World Bank and IMF, are invited to conduct forward-looking studies into concerted action on such mechanisms so that they can be taken up at meetings of the Commission and other relevant intergovernmental bodies.

Transfer of environmentally sound technologies

52. There is an urgent need for developing countries to acquire greater access to environmentally sound technology if they are to meet the obligations agreed at UNCED and in the relevant international conventions. Hence, renewed commitment is needed from developed countries to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21.

53. Technology transfer and the development of the human and institutional capacity to adapt, absorb and diffuse technologies, as well as to generate technical knowledge and innovations, are part of the same process and must be given equal importance. Although technology transfer is usually a business-to-business transaction, Governments have a particular responsibility to develop the institutional and human capacities that form the basis for effective technology transfer.

54. Much of the most advanced environmentally sound technology is developed and held by the private sector. Creation of an enabling environment, on the part of both developed and developing countries, including supportive economic and fiscal measures, as well as a practical system of environmental regulations and compliance mechanisms, can help to stimulate private-sector investment in and transfer of environmentally sound technology to developing countries. New ways of financial intermediation for the financing of ESTs, such as "green credit lines", should be examined. The links between FDI, ODA and technology transfer should be explored in greater depth. Further efforts could be made by Governments of developed countries to acquire privately owned technology in order to transfer it on concessional terms to developing countries, especially least developed countries.

55. A proportion of technology is owned by public institutions or results from publicly funded research and development activities. The Government's control over the technological knowledge produced in publicly funded research and

development institutions opens up a potential for the generation of publicly owned technologies that could be made accessible to developing countries, and could be an important means for Governments to catalyse private sector technology transfer. Proposals for further study of those technologies to meet developing country needs are to be welcomed.

56. Governments should play a key role in establishing public-private partnerships, within and between developed and developing countries and economies in transition. Such partnerships are essential for linking the advantages of the private sector - access to finance and technology, managerial efficiency, entrepreneurial experiences and engineering expertise - with the capacity of Governments to create a policy environment that is conducive to technology-related private-sector investments and long-term sustainable development objectives.

57. Governments have an important role to play in bringing together companies from developed and developing countries and economies in transition so that they can create sustainable and mutually beneficial business linkages. Incentives should be given to stimulate the building of joint ventures between SMEs in developed and developing countries and economies in transition.

58. Governments of developing countries should take appropriate measures to strengthen South-South cooperation for technology transfer and capacity-building. Such measures could include the networking of existing national information systems and sources on ESTs, and the networking of national cleaner production centres, as well as the establishment of sector-specific regional centres for technology transfer and capacity-building. Donor countries and international organizations should further assist developing countries in those efforts.

59. There is a need to enhance exploitation of the potential of global electronic information and telecommunication networks that would enable countries to choose among the available technological options that are most appropriate to their needs.

Capacity-building

60. Renewed commitment and support from the international community is essential to support national efforts for capacity-building in developing countries and economies in transition.

61. The Capacity 21 Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) should be further strengthened. It should give priority attention to building capacity for the elaboration of sustainable development strategies based on participatory approaches.

62. Capacity-building efforts should pay particular attention to the needs of women in order to ensure that their skills and experience are fully used in decision-making at all levels. The special needs of indigenous peoples must be recognized. International financial institutions should enhance their funding of capacity-building for sustainable development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Special attention should also be given

to strengthening the ability of developing countries to absorb and generate technologies. The role of the private sector in capacity-building should be further promoted and enhanced. South-South cooperation in capacity-building should be further supported through "triangular" cooperative arrangements.

Science

63. Public and private investment in science, education and training, and in research and development should be increased significantly at the national level.

64. International consensus-building is facilitated by the availability of authoritative scientific evidence. There is a need for further scientific cooperation, especially among different academic disciplines, in order to verify and strengthen scientific evidence for environmental change.

65. Increasing efforts to build and strengthen scientific and technological capacity in developing countries is an extremely important objective. Multilateral and bilateral donor agencies and Governments, as well as specific funding mechanisms, such as GEF, should enhance significantly their support to developing countries in that regard.

Education and awareness

66. Education increases human welfare, and is a decisive factor in enabling people to become productive and responsible members of a sustainable society. A fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development is an adequately financed and effective educational system at all levels, particularly at the primary and secondary levels, including lifelong education, accessible to all, that augments both human capacity and well-being. Priority should be given to women's and girls' education since it also plays a critical role in improving family health, nutrition and income. Education should also be seen as a means of empowering youth and other vulnerable and marginalized groups, including those in the rural areas. Even in nations with strong education systems, there is a need to reorient education, awareness and training to increase widespread public understanding and support for sustainable development. Education for a sustainable future should engage a wide spectrum of institutions and sectors to address the concepts and issues of sustainable development, as embodied throughout Agenda 21 and further emphasized in the Commission's work programme on the subject adopted in 1996; the concept of education for a sustainable future will be further developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in cooperation with others.

International legal instruments and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

67. The implementation and application of the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development should be the subject of regular assessment and reporting.

68. Access to information, public participation and the right to complaint are hallmarks of environmental democracy; there should be wider access to relevant court systems to pursue environmental justice.

69. Implementation of and compliance with international treaties in the field of sustainable development needs further improvement. Secure, sustained and predictable financial support, sufficient institutional capacity and human resources, and adequate access to technology may promote the implementation of international legal instruments. Full implementation of international commitments can eliminate potential sources of conflict, and the development of cooperative, non-judicial and transparent mechanisms for implementation should be pursued.

Information and tools to measure progress

70. The further development of cost-effective tools to collect and disseminate information for decision makers at all levels, through strengthened data collection, compilation and analysis, is urgently needed.

71. The Commission's work programme on indicators for sustainable development should result in an adequate set of indicators, including a limited number of aggregated indicators, to be used at the national level by the year 2000. Indicators should play an important role in monitoring progress towards sustainable development and in facilitating national reporting, as appropriate.

72. National reports provided on the implementation of Agenda 21 have proven to be a valuable means of sharing information at the international and regional levels, and even more importantly, of providing a focus for the coordination of issues related to sustainable development within individual countries. National reporting should continue, and should reflect all aspects of Agenda 21, including domestic action and international commitments. The reporting system could be complemented by peer reviews organized at the regional level.

[To be added in the course of the fifth session of the Commission: action regarding the streamlining of national reporting.]

D. International institutional arrangements[19]

73. The achievement of sustainable development requires continued support from international institutions. The institutional framework outlined in chapter 38 of Agenda 21 and determined by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/191, including the specific functions and roles of various organs, programmes and organizations within and outside the United Nations system, will continue to be fully relevant in the period after the special session. Within that framework, achievement of the goals and objectives set out below would be particularly important.

1. Greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes

74. Given the increasing number of decision-making bodies concerned with the various aspects of sustainable development, including international conventions, there is an ever greater need for better policy coordination at the intergovernmental level to ensure consistent and coherent positions of Governments in such processes, as well as enhanced collaboration among their secretariats. The Economic and Social Council should play a strengthened role in that area, bearing in mind its function of coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields.

75. It is necessary to strengthen the ACC Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development and its system of task managers, with a view to further enhancing intersectoral cooperation and policy coordination at the national, regional and international levels for the implementation of Agenda 21 and for the promotion of a coordinated and integrated follow-up to the major United Nations conferences in the area of sustainable development.

76. Appropriate and effective arrangements should be established in order to better support regional and subregional organizations, including the regional commissions, bearing in mind the role that such bodies play in the achievement of the sustainable development objectives agreed at the international level.

2. Role of relevant organizations and institutions of the United Nations system

77. All organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, in their further individual and joint efforts to implement Agenda 21 and in cooperation with national Governments, should give more emphasis to action at the country level, should ensure greater support to community-driven initiatives and should promote more active involvement of major groups.

78. The role of UNEP and its Governing Council, as the principal United Nations body in the field of environment, should be further enhanced, in conformity with the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of UNEP,[20] with a view to enabling UNEP to serve as the leading environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and acts as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. The role of UNEP in the further development of international environmental law, including the development of inter-linkages among existing environmental conventions, should be strengthened. A revitalized UNEP should be supported by adequate funding. UNEP should continue providing effective support to the Commission in the form of scientific, technical and policy information and advice on the environment.

79. UNDP should strengthen its contribution to sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21 given its role at the national and local levels, particularly in the area of promoting capacity-building in cooperation with other organizations.

80. UNCTAD should continue to play a key role in the implementation of Agenda 21 through the integrated examination of linkages among trade, investment, technology, finance and sustainable development.

81. The WTO Committee on Trade and Environment, UNCTAD and UNEP should advance their coordinated work on trade and environment, building upon their accomplishments to date and involving other appropriate international and regional organizations in their cooperation and coordination. UNCTAD and UNEP should play a major role in both analysis and action-oriented efforts to promote the integration of trade, environment and development. The Commission has an important role to play in the process of widening the trade and environment debate to include an integrated consideration of all factors relevant for achieving sustainable development.

82. The contribution and commitment to sustainable development of international financial institutions should be further strengthened. The World Bank has a significant role to play, bearing in mind its expertise and the overall volume of resources that it commands. Governments should consider approving the twelfth International Development Association (IDA) replenishment at a level at least comparable to the tenth IDA replenishment. Negotiations for the replenishment of GEF will have special importance for its future work, as well as a direct impact on the availability of new and additional grant and concessional funding for sustainable development with global benefits at the global, regional and national levels.

3. Future role and programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

83. The Commission on Sustainable Development will continue to provide a central forum for reviewing further progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and other commitments made at UNCED; for conducting policy debate and consensus-building on sustainable development; and for catalysing action and long-term commitment to sustainable development at all levels. The Commission should perform its functions in coordination with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council that contribute to the achievement of the specific economic and social goals of sustainable development.

84. The Commission, in carrying out its functions - outlined in General Assembly 47/191 - should focus on issues that are crucial to achieving the goals of sustainable development; should involve the promotion of policies that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability; and should provide for integrated consideration of linkages, both among sectors and between sectoral and cross-sectoral aspects of Agenda 21.

85. In the light of the above, it is recommended that the Economic and Social Council decide on the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998-2002 (text to be added in an annex after further discussion during the fifth session of the Commission; for the proposals of the Secretary-General on this issue, see E/CN.178/1997/2).

4. Methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development

86. Based on the experience gained in the period 1993-1997, the Commission, under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council, should:

(a) Strive to attract greater involvement in its work of ministers and high-level national policy makers responsible for specific economic sectors, who, in particular, are encouraged to participate in the high-level segments of the Commission together with the ministers and policy makers responsible for environment and development. The high-level segments of the Commission should become more interactive, and should focus on the priority issues being considered at a particular session;

(b) Continue to provide a forum for the exchange of national experience in the area of sustainable development. In that context, the Commission should consider more effective modalities for reviewing progress in the implementation of commitments made in Agenda 21, with an appropriate emphasis on means of implementation;

(c) Develop a better regional focus. The Commission should monitor the growing number of regional initiatives and regional collaborations for sustainable development, and should link its work more closely to such developments;

(d) Establish closer interaction with international financial institutions, GEF and WTO, which in turn are invited to take full account of the results of policy deliberations in the Commission in their own work programmes and activities;

(e) Continue to explore more effective and systematic ways to involve the representatives of major groups in its work, including the business community, with a view to enhancing their contribution and accountability in the implementation of Agenda 21, thus demonstrating the value of their participation more widely;

(f) Organize the implementation of its next multi-year programme of work in the most effective and productive way. Preparation for consideration of issues by the Commission can take the form of ad hoc inter-sessional working groups or arrangements similar to that of its Intergovernmental Panel on Forests. It should be borne in mind that government-hosted inter-sessional expert meetings have proven to be effective;

(g) Consider the functioning of the High-level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development with a view to promoting more direct interaction between the Commission and the Board, and to enhancing the contribution of the Board to the deliberations of the Commission.

87. The functioning of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development and the Committee on Natural Resources should be more closely integrated with the work programme of the Commission.

88. Arrangements for the election of the Bureau should be changed in order to allow the same Bureau to provide guidance for the preparation for and lead work during the annual sessions of the Commission. The Commission would benefit greatly from such a change, and the Economic and Social Council is invited to examine the possibility of taking the necessary action in that regard.

89. The next comprehensive review of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 will take place in the year 2002.

II. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

1. At the 17th meeting, on 7 March 1997, the Working Group had before it the draft report (E/CN.17/1997/WG/L.1), as well as an informal paper.

2. At the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of the European Union, requested that the following statement be included in the report:

> "The final outcome of the special session will hopefully set out a series of commitments, and some of those commitments will concern areas in which powers have been transferred to the European Community (EC) by its member States. In order for the totality of any such commitments to be covered, therefore, EC has to be able to subscribe to the said commitments as well as its member States. EC has subscribed to an implemented Agenda 21, and EC therefore wishes to assume its full commitments in the review and appraisal of UNCED at the special session. At UNCED, the solution devised to allow EC to subscribe to Agenda 21 was to insert a footnote in the preamble of Agenda 21 assimilating EC to Governments within its areas of competence. That solution was also used for the Habitat Agenda. It is suggested that the same solution be used for the final outcome of the special session.
>
> This arrangement does not in any way change the status of EC, which will be an observer at the special session. It only enables it to subsequently fulfil the commitments reached at the special session."

3. Also at the same meeting, the Working Group took note of the informal paper and adopted its report.

III. ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group of the Commission on Sustainable Development met in New York from 24 February to 7 March 1997, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/113. The Working Group held 17 meetings (1st to 17th meetings).

2. The meeting was opened by the temporary Chairman, Mr. Paul de Jongh (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

3. The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat made an introductory statement.

4. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme made a statement.

B. Attendance

5. The session was attended by representatives of 53 States members of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, the European Community and one non-member State, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system, and observers for intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in the annex.

C. Election

6. At the 1st meeting, on 24 February 1997, the Working Group elected, by acclamation, H.E. Mr. Celso Luiz Nunes Amorim (Brazil) and Mr. Derek Osborn (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) as Co-Chairmen.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Co-Chairmen made introductory statements.

D. Agenda and organization of work

8. At the 1st meeting, on 24 February 1997, the Working Group adopted its provisional agenda, contained in document E/CN.17/1997/WG/1, and approved its organization of work. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

4. Other matters.

5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

E. Documentation

9. The Working Group had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on overall progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (E/CN.17/1997/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to accelerate sustainable development in developing countries and related domestic policies (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.1);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on combating poverty (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.2);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on changing consumption patterns (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.3);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on demographic dynamics and sustainability (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.4);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on protecting and promoting human health (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.5);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting sustainable human settlement development (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.6);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on integrating environment and development in decision-making (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.7);

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on protection of the atmosphere (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.8);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on an integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.9);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.11);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on managing fragile ecosystems: sustainable mountain development (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.12);

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.13);

(n) Report of the Secretary-General on conservation of biological diversity (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.14);

(o) Report of the Secretary-General on environmentally sound management of biotechnology (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.15);

(p) Report of the Secretary-General on protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.16);

(q) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources: application of integrated approaches to the development, management and use of water resources" (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.17);

(r) Report of the Secretary-General on environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals, including prevention of illegal international traffic in toxic and dangerous products (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.18);

(s) Report of the Secretary-General on environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, including prevention of illegal international traffic in hazardous wastes (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.19);

(t) Report of the Secretary-General on environmentally sound management of solid wastes and sewage-related issues (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.20);

(u) Report of the Secretary-General on safe and environmentally sound management of radioactive wastes (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.21);

(v) Report of the Secretary-General on the role and contribution of major groups (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.22);

(w) Report of the Secretary-General on financial resources and mechanisms (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.23);

(x) Report of the Secretary-General on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.24);

(y) Report of the Secretary-General on science for sustainable development (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.25);

(z) Report of the Secretary-General on promoting education, public awareness and training (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.26);

(aa) Report of the Secretary-General on national mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.27);

(bb) Report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.28);

(cc) Report of the Secretary-General on international legal instruments and mechanisms (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.29);

(dd) Report of the Secretary-General on information for decision-making (E/CN.17/1997/2/Add.30);

(ee) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Global change and sustainable development: critical trends" (E/CN.17/1997/3 and Corr.1);

(ff) Report of the Secretary-General on an inventory of ongoing energy-related programmes and activities of entities within the United Nations system, on coordination of such activities and on arrangements needed to foster the linkage between energy and sustainable development within the system (E/CN.17/1997/7);

(gg) Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Rio Declaration on Environment and Development: application and implementation" (E/CN.17/1997/2/8);

(hh) Report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive assessment of the freshwater resources of the world (E/CN.17/1997/2/9);

(ii) Report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (E/CN.17/1997/2/14);

(jj) Letter dated 29 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of an expert workshop on fostering the linkage between energy and sustainable development within international institutions, held at Vienna from 22 to 24 January 1997 (E/CN.17/1997/2/16).

(kk) Note verbale dated 18 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Chairman's summary of the Fourth Expert Group Meeting on Financial Issues of Agenda 21, held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean at Santiago from 8 to 10 January 1997 (E/CN.17/1997/18);

(ll) Letter dated 18 February 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil and Norway to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the conclusions of a symposium on sustainable production and consumption patterns and policies, held at Brasilia from 25 to 28 November 1996 (E/CN.17/1997/19).

Notes

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and Corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Oxford University Press, 1997.

[3] See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[4] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 June 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and Corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, ..., annex I.

[6] Refers to a proposal by an informal group of concerned international environment and development experts to improve energy and resource efficiency by a factor of 10.

[7] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] See The Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations: The Legal Texts (Geneva, GATT secretariat, 1994).

[9] Adopted by the WTO Ministerial Meeting at Singapore, December 1996.

[10] See The Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations ..., p. 163.

[11] Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[12] See Report of the International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata, Kazakstan, 6-12 September 1978 (Geneva, WHO, 1978).

[13] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.V.5.

[14] The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (see footnote 13 above); the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention; the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Convention relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (see A/50/550, p. 10); the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Vessels Fishing in the High Seas; the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (A/51/116, annex II); the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; the International Coral Reef Initiative; the Rome Consensus on World Fisheries of the 1995 FAO Ministerial Meeting on Fisheries; the Jakarta Mandate on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity; the Kyoto Declaration and Plan of Action on the Sustainable Contribution of Fisheries to Food Security; the International Whaling Commission's Moratorium on Commercial

Whaling; various international agreements on the conservation of small cetaceans; General Assembly resolutions 51/34, 51/35, 51/36 and 51/189; and relevant decisions made at the nineteenth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme.

[15] Berlin Mandate: Review of the adequacy of article 4, paragraph 2 (a) and (b) of the Convention, including proposals related to a protocol and decisions on follow-up (FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1).

[16] Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, International Legal Materials, vol. 26, No. 6 (November 1987), p. 1550.

[17] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (UNEP/WG/190/4)(forthcoming United Nations publication, Treaty Series, vol. 1673, No. 28911).

[18] Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa of All Forms of Hazardous Wastes and the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa, International Legal Materials, vol. 30, No. 3 (May 1991), p. 775, and vol. 31, No. 1 (January 1992), p. 164.

[19] The question of international institutional arrangements in the area of sustainable development should be seen in the overall framework of the ongoing United Nations reform process.

[20] See UNEP Governing Council decision 19/1 of 7 February 1997.

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Zimbabwe	

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Barbados, Belarus, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Kazakstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zaire

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See

United Nations

United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Meteorological Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Atomic Energy Agency, World Trade Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

Agence de coopération culturelle et technique, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Organization of African Unity

Non-governmental organizations

General consultative status with the Economic and Social Council	Franciscans International, Humane Society of the United States, International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), International Movement ATD Fourth World, World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), World Wide Fund for Nature International
Special consultative status	Baha'í International Community, Global Education Associates, Greenpeace International, International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, Information Habitat: Where Information Lives, International Association against Torture, World Federalist Movement, World Safety Organization

Roster or accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development

American Planning Association, Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Campaign for the Earth Foundation, Commonweal, Cordillera Women's Education and Resource Center, Inc., Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Center for Respect of Life and Environment, Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR), Earth Council, Friends of the Earth (FOE), Green Earth Organization, Hunger Project, The, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Institute), International Institute for Sustainable Development, International Right to Life Federation, International Federation Terre des Hommes, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Japan Fisheries Association, Metropolitan Solar Energy, PanAfrican Islamic Society for Agro-Cultural Development, Red De Ecología Social (REDES), SERVAS International, United Nations Association - Canada, United Nations Association of Sweden in Stockholm, United Nations Association of America, UNED-UK/United Nations Environment and Development - United Kingdom Committee, World Information Transfer, World Sustainable Agriculture Association

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